

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

RIO GRANDE AND TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS NEW MEXICO, TEXAS, AND CALIFORNIA

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will hold Public Scoping Meetings regarding a proposal to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Rio Grande and Tijuana River Flood Control Projects in New Mexico, Texas and California. The USIBWC as the lead agency will analyze flood protection measures and alternatives to current management practices, including structural and non-structural alternatives, watershed-oriented alternatives, and collaborative measures with other agencies and landowners to determine to what extent project management can provide adequate flood protection, facilitate water deliveries, and provide boundary stabilization. The projects also would support restoration of native riparian and aquatic habitats and the development of recreational opportunities. USIBWC, throughout the preparation of the PEIS, will collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the accomplishment of the missions for both agencies.

The PEIS will consider a range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, based on issues and concerns associated with the projects. The PEIS will identify, describe, and evaluate the existing environmental, cultural, sociological, economical, and recreational resources; explain the flood control/protection projects; and evaluate the impacts associated with the alternatives under consideration. Significant issues which have been identified to be addressed in the PEIS include, but are not limited to, impacts to water resources, water quality, cultural and biological resources, threatened and endangered species, land use, agricultural lands, and recreation.

A Notice of Intent to prepare a PEIS for this project was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10, 2004. The purpose of the public scoping meetings is to obtain information from governmental agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the PEIS. You are invited to attend any one of the five scheduled public scoping meetings:

El Paso, Texas: January 11, 2005 at the El Paso Marriott, 1600 Airway Boulevard from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (MST)

Las Cruces, New Mexico: January 12, 2005 at the Las Cruces Holiday Inn, 201 East University Avenue from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (MST)

Presidio, Texas: January 13, 2005 at the Chamber of Commerce, 202 West O'Reilly Street from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (CST)

McAllen, Texas: January 19, 2005 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 2721 S. 10th Street from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (CST)

Imperial Beach, California: January 27, 2005 at the Imperial Beach City Hall, 825 Imperial Beach Blvd. From 6:00 – 9:00 PM (PST)

ADDRESS FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS: Mr. Daniel Borunda Environmental Protection Specialist, Compliance Section, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-100, El Paso, TX 79902. Telephone: (915) 832-4701.

Comments should be submitted by **February 7, 2005**.